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TUESDAY, MARCH 17, 2020 JSOnline.com PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

BARS ARE CLOSING, SCHOOLS ARE OUT

"I want to thank MPS for providing meals and especially for providing homework, that's a plus," says Nia Ramirez as she and her four children who attend ALBA Elementary School head home after receiving their meals. MPS began providing free meals from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday through Friday. Students are learning from home due to the coronavirus pandemic. See story on page 3A. RICK WOOD/MILWAUKEE JOURNAL SENTINEL

And coronavirus is still spreading in Wisconsin

Meg Jones
Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

Coronavirus cases continue to mount in Wisconsin, including the first people believed to have become infected through community spread — meaning they did not get the virus from traveling overseas or in another state.

While 46 confirmed cases spread out in a state of 5.8 million people might not seem like a lot, officials warn this is only the beginning, the tip of a tidal wave that could wash across Wisconsin as it has done elsewhere in the world.

State Department of Health Services chief medical officer Ryan Westergaard said local health departments are still conducting interviews to determine travel histories and contact with others who have the virus, but confirmed cases with no such history are signaling "likely" spread in the community.

See VIRUS, Page 9A

Inside

Delaying primary would be tough. **3A**
Markets crater. **Business, 10A**

Wisconsin governor bans large gatherings

Bars, restaurants must limit patrons to 50

Molly Beck and Patrick Marley
Milwaukee Journal Sentinel
USA TODAY NETWORK – WISCONSIN

MADISON – Gov. Tony Evers on Monday banned gatherings of 50 people or more, requiring bars and restaurants to limit their patrons as the state braces for coronavirus to spread quickly through communities.

Evers made the announcement on the eve of one of the busiest days in Wisconsin bars, saying the order was crucial to prevent the spread of coronavirus as crowds continue to gather to drink and eat despite urgent advice from state and federal health officials to stay indoors and away from others.

"I'm proud and not surprised by the efforts of the people of Wisconsin to rise to the challenge," Evers said in a conference call Monday with reporters. "Folks, it's on all of us to practice social distancing."

The order does not go as far as measures other states have put in place — outright bans on gathering in public to eat or drink — and fell short of White House recommendations of limiting gatherings to 10 people.

But its effects will be felt beyond happy hour. The order requires bars, restaurants, theaters, conference rooms and other gathering places to limit to 50 patrons, or to 50% capacity, whichever is smaller. The limit applies to weddings, funerals and schools — moving up an earlier order to close schools by one day.

The restrictions won't apply to grocery stores, food pantries, child care centers, pharmacies and hospitals, Evers said.

Wisconsin law gives Evers and his health department broad powers when he declares a public health emergency, as he did last week.

State law says during emergencies a governor can "issue such orders as he or she deems necessary for the security of persons and property" and he is using that authority to limit public gatherings.

See BAN, Page 8A

Kohl's to start selling Lands' End merchandise

Sarah Hauer
Milwaukee Journal Sentinel
USA TODAY NETWORK – WISCONSIN

Wisconsin-based retailers Kohl's and Lands' End are partnering together in a pairing like khaki pants and polo shirts.

Starting this fall, Kohl's shoppers will be able to buy Lands' End casual wear online and at select stores.

Kohl's will offer Lands' End's entire women's, men's, kids and home merchandise on its website. Orders will be fulfilled and shipped by Lands' End.

Also in fall, Kohl's will start selling Lands' End seasonal goods, like fall and winter outerwear, at 150 of its stores. Some stores will be a Lands' End store-within-a-store. The in-store selection will switch to swimwear in early 2021.

This new partnership was to have been announced Monday at Kohl's investor day in New York City, but the event was canceled because of concerns about the coronavirus outbreak. The event will be rescheduled.

See KOHL'S, Page 8A

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Pete Dougherty
Packers' free-agency deals make sense only if GM Brian Gutekunst puts the savings to good use. **Sports, 1B**

'Play ball' will have to wait
Major League Baseball pushes back opening day until mid-May at the earliest on Monday. **Sports, 1B**

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